



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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Preserving the Vision – Newsletter #2

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What do we wish to preserve through the strategic planning process called “*Preserving the Vision*”?

The Catholic Identity of the Catholic elementary schools and academies within the Diocese of Brooklyn is the primary reason for their existence.

“The complexity of the modern world makes it all more necessary to increase awareness of the ecclesial identity of the Catholic school and academy. It is from its Catholic Identity that the school/academy derives its original characteristics and its structure as a genuine instrument of the Catholic Church, a place of real and specific pastoral ministry... The ecclesial nature of the Catholic School/Academy is written in the very heart of its identity as a teaching institution” (*The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium – Congregation for Catholic Education*, 1998).

This is one of the reasons for *Preserving the Vision*.

Over the last six years within the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, we have reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to preserve the mission of Catholic education and the important role that it plays both in the life of the larger Church and in the many diverse communities that comprise our diocese.

The mission of Catholic education is simple. It is to lead our children, teachers, staff and yourselves, as parents and guardians, to salvation in Jesus Christ, the Lord. Saint Pope John Paul II explained this mission by describing our Catholic schools as “the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out. Catholic schools are at once places of evangelization, of complete formation, of inculturation, and of apprenticeship in a lively dialogue between young people of different religious and social background.”

The Catholic elementary schools and academies within the Diocese of Brooklyn strive to educate the whole child: spiritually, academically, morally, emotionally, socially, and physically in partnership with parents. This allows the Catholic elementary school and academy to educate and evangelize students for the Catholic Church’s mission in the world.

Catholic Schools/Academies are:

Places for Evangelization
Places of Complete Formation
Places of Inculturation
Places of Apprenticeship

The Catholic elementary school and academy “are a true and proper ecclesial entities by reason of its educational activity in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony” (*The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*, 11).

Essential to the continued success of Catholic education remains the challenge of identifying and providing the resources needed for our schools to thrive. We are working not only to promote the teachings of the Gospel, but we are also expanding the educational and technological opportunities needed to optimize student achievement. Through *Preserving the Vision*, we are pursuing the development of multi-faceted partnerships with colleges and universities, which will benefit our students through the expansion of educational resources.

Our long-term goal remains the same—to preserve the Gospel message and foster Catholic schools that are committed to excellence, service and formation of the entire child. The very message we preserve is based on the teachings found in the Gospel, which will always be the foundation for the mission of Catholic education. This has been the trademark of our existence for over a century, and we are committed to ensure its continuation for many generations to come.

We are also determined and prepared to address the challenges of the 21st century. *Preserving the Vision* will position our schools and academies for a bright future, while always remaining faithful to the mission of Catholic education, the great treasure that we have received.

Catholic elementary schools and academies are valued as important elements in the mission and responsibility of the Diocese of Brooklyn and its parishes.

Please find *Preserving the Vision* on the Diocesan Website for Catholic Education, www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Chadzutko". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.
Superintendent